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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/701,705	12/01/2000	Yukihiko Okumura	15689.61	7195

7590 02/27/2008
ADRIAN J. LEE
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EXAMINER

GHULAMALI, QUTBUDDIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2611

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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02/27/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/701,705	Applicant(s) OKUMURA ET AL.	
Examiner Qutbuddin Ghulamali	Art Unit 2611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 December 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.
- 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,2,4-6,8,18-20,22,23,33-37,47,49 and 53-85 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1,2,4-6,8,18-20,22,23,33-37,47,49,53-61,64-77 and 80-85 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 62, 78 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 63 and 79 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to Remarks/Arguments filed by the applicant on 12/05/2007.

Response to Remarks

2. Applicant's remarks filed 12/05/2007 with respect to claim claims 62 and 78 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The rejection based on new art follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 62, 78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Andoh (IEEE, "Channel Estimation Using Time Multiplexed Pilot Symbols for Coherent Rake Combining for DS-CDMA Mobile Radio") in view of Iwamatsu et al (USP 6,487,236).

Regarding claim 78, Andoh discloses a demodulation method comprising: weighting and averaging pilot signals using a plurality of weight sequences (fig. 2; page 954, col. 2, lines 1-3, 12-15, 24-37; page 955, col. 1, lines 4-17; col. 2, lines 14-20, 28-

34, 37-40). Andoh does not explicitly disclose, deriving a plurality of demodulated data sequences from a data sequence using said plurality of channel estimation values; and selecting one output data sequence by making judgment of reliability of a plurality of demodulated data. However, Iwamatsu discloses deriving a plurality of demodulated data sequences from a data sequence using said plurality of channel estimation values (col. 20, lines 52-64); and selecting one output data sequence by making judgment of reliability of a plurality of demodulated data (col. 20, lines 65-67; col. 21, lines 1-14). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a data sequence from a plurality of demodulated data sequences and select an out sequence of optimum reliability of demodulated data from demodulating unit as taught by Iwamatsu in the channel estimation of Andoh because by selecting an output sequence from a plurality of data sequence having an optimum reliability it is possible to perform more correct demodulation of correlated energies.

As per claim 62, the steps claimed as apparatus is nothing more than restating the function of the specific components of the method steps as claimed above and therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the method as taught by the combined art of Ono and Iwamatsu because it can allow insertion of pilot symbols to estimate channel response of data symbols in a fading environment to mitigate noise and multi interference and improve channel estimation accuracy.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8, 18-20, 22, 23, 33-37, 47, 49, 53-61, 64-77, 80-85 allowed.
6. Claims 63 and 79 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Qutbuddin Ghulamali whose telephone number is (571)-272-3014. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00AM - 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chieh M. Fan can be reached on (571) 272-3042. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Application/Control Number:
09/701,705
Art Unit: 2611

Page 5

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

QG.
February 18, 2008.


CHIEH M. FAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER